

Message Text

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67

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 AID-05

COME-00 EB-07 FRB-01 TRSE-00 XMB-04 OPIC-06 CIEP-02

LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 /096 W
----- 006603

R 231126Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3243

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

DIA WASHDC

CINCPAC HONOLULU

UNCLAS BANGKOK 7178

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, MARR, MASS, TH, US

SUBJ: RTG LEADERS ON U.S. CREDIBILITY AND DEPENDABILITY

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

1. FOREIGN MINISTER CHATCHAI CHUNHAWAN, DEFENSE MINISTER PRAMAN ADIREKSEN, AND ACTING MILITARY SUPREME COMMANDER KRIT SIWARA ALL GAVE NEWS CONFERENCES ON APRIL 22. BELOW ARE INFORMAL USIS TRANSLATIONS OF THEIR REMARKS PERTAINING TO U.S. CREDIBILITY AND CONSTANCY AS AN ALLY.

2. FOREIGN MINISTER CHATCHAI CHUNHAWAN

"REPORTER: IS THIS PRESENT SITUATION IN INDOCHINA A DEFEAT SUFFERED BY A WORLD POWER?

CHATCHAI: I DON'T KNOW WHETHER IT CAN BE CALLED A DEFEAT OR NOT. BUT WHAT I UNDERSTAND IS THAT AMERICA PULLED OUT BECAUSE CONGRESS WOULD NOT APPROVE A BUDGET, THEREFORE SINCE BOTH CAMBODIA AND SOUTH VIETNAM DID NOT RECEIVE FURTHER SUPPORT,
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THEY WERE DEFEATED. THAT IS ONLY VERY ORDINARY. THIS IS A LESSON

FOR THAILAND."

3. DEFENSE MINISTER PRAMAN ADIREKSEN

"REPORTER: IN THE ADDRESS HE (PRES. THIEU) DELIVERED ANNOUNCING HIS RESIGNATION, HE BLAMED THE UNITED STATES. WHAT IS YOUR VIEW ON THIS STATEMENT HE MADE?

PRAMAN: DEFEAT CAN BE REGARDED FROM TWO ANGLES. FIRST, NO EFFORT WAS MADE TO REORGANIZE ONESELF AND TRY TO BECOME STRONG. DEPENDING ON FOREIGN AID ONLY CAN NEVER RESULT IN SURVIVAL. TURNING TO THAILAND, WE ARE IN A SIMILAR POSITION. WE MUST CONCENTRATE ON MAKING OURSELVES INCREASINGLY STRONG, BY BOOSTING UP THE MORALE OF OUR PEOPLE, IN REGARD TO OUR WEAPONS, AND IN ALL WAYS. FROM ANOTHER ANGLE, WE MUST ENDEAVOR TO FIND FRIENDS ALSO WHO WILL HELP US, SO THAT WE WILL NOT BE ALONE. THIS IS OF IMPORTANCE TOO."

4. ACTING MILITARY SUPREME COMMANDER GENERAL KRIT SIWARA

"REPORTER: WHAT IS YOUR VIEW ON AMERICAN AID TO ASIAN COUNTRIES"

KRIT: I FEEL THAT CONFIDENCE CANNOT BE FELT IN IT, BECAUSE IF AMERICA DESERTS FRIENDS, AS IT HAS, IT IS A CAUSE FOR WORRY AND CONCERN ALSO. SHOULD WE BE IN A SIMILAR SITUATION, WE WOULD WORRY, EVERYBODY WOULD WORRY.

REPORTER: WILL IT BE NECESSARY FOR US TO TAKE UP FOR RECONSIDERATION ...

KRIT: IT IS UP TO THE GOVERNMENT TO CONSIDER; IT IS NOT MY DUTY. THERE IS NO TRUTH WHATSOEVER IN THE REPORT PUBLISHED IN "THE NATION" (THAT KRIT WOULD VISIT THE U.S.). I TOTALLY DENY IT.

REPORTER: SHOULD AMERICA CUT OFF AID TO US, AS IN THE CASE OF CAMBODIA AND VIETNAM, WOULD WE BE ABLE TO STAND ON OUR OWN FEET? WE MUST SAY THAT WE CAN STAND ON OUR OWN FEET. WE HAVE OUR ARMED FORCES AND WE WILL PUT UP A STAND TO THE VERY END.

REPORTER: IN THIS PRESENT SITUATION, WHAT STAND DO YOU THINK
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WE OUGHT TO TAKE IN ORDER TO SURVIVE?

KRIT: WHAT SITUATION? IT IS A FACT THAT THE SITUATION HAS NOT REACHED US YET, BECAUSE THE FIGHTING IS WAR WAGED BETWEEN CAMBODIANS THEMSELVES AND BETWEEN VIETNAMESE THEMSELVES IN THEIR RESPECTIVE COUNTRIES. THE WAR AND THE FIGHTING HAS NOT GONE OUTSIDE THE LIMITS OF THEIR OWN COUNTRIES. ON THE OTHER HAND, FOR THE SAKE OF THE SECURITY AND SOVEREIGNTY OF OUR NATION, IT IS

THE DUTY AND RESPONSIBILITY OF THE GOVERNMENT, AND OF THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL TO TAKE UP FOR RECONSIDERATION WHAT ACTION WE OUGHT TO TAKE. WE WISH TO FIND FRIENDS, BECAUSE IT IS DIFFICULT FOR ANY COUNTRY TO FIGHT ON ITS OWN AT THE PRESENT TIME. THEREFORE, WE WISH TO HAVE OTHER COUNTRIES AS OUR FRIENDS. ALL WE ASK IS FOR US NOT TO BE DESERTED WHEN WE ARE IN TROUBLE, AS IT THE U.S. HAS DESERTED OTHER NATIONS, OR WE WOULD BE IN DIRE STRAITS ALSO. I HAVE NOTICED THAT NEWSPAPERS HAVE PUBLISHED COMMENTS ATTACKING CONGRESS. ISN'T THAT TRUE? THIS TOTALLY DAMAGES THE IMAGE OF AMERICA.

REPORTER: BUT WE STILL FEEL HOPE THAT SEATO WOULD COME TO OUR AID.

KRIT: SEATO? IT IS TRUE THAT IT STILL EXISTS, BUT IT IS CONCENTRATCCG MAINLY ON ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL AID. THIS IS MY FEELING."
MASTERS

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, COLLECTIVE SECURITY, PRESS CONFERENCES, FOREIGN ASSISTANCE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BANGKO07178
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750142-0934
From: BANGKOK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750422/aaaaaafi.tel
Line Count: 133
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <07 JUL 2003 by SilvaL0>; APPROVED <02 FEB 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RTG LEADERS ON U.S. CREDIBILITY AND DEPENDABILITY CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD
TAGS: PFOR, MARR, MASS, TH, US, (CHATCHAI CHUNHAWAN), (PRAMAN ADIREKSEN), (KRIT SIWARA)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006